

Applicant : Marc G. Brun et al.
Appln. No. : 09/945,313
Page : 7

REMARKS

In the final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-18 are allowed.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20, 22, 24, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,433,924 issued to Sommer et al.

By this Amendment, Applicants propose to cancel rejected claims 20, 22, 24, and 25 without prejudice to thereby place this application in immediate condition for allowance.

Although Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 20, 22, 24, and 25, Applicants have nevertheless canceled these claims in order to expedite the issuance of a patent including claims 1-18. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application.

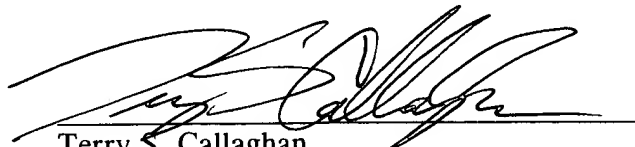
Applicants submit that this Amendment does not raise any new issues or require further search, but rather places this application in immediate condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARC G. BRUN ET AL.

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton, LLP

1-12-2004
Date


Terry S. Callaghan
Registration No. 34 559
695 Kenmoor, S.E.
Post Office Box 2567
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
(616) 949-9610

TSC/rsw